

March 2022 Newsletter “The Voter”

The 2022 Virginia General Assembly is now in session! And the **LIS** (Legislative Information Service) is the tool to use to follow the progress of bills that are being introduced, discussed, and voted on. What is the LIS? It's Virginia's **Legislative Information System**. The website, <https://lis.virginia.gov/> allows you to access:

- [Bills & Resolutions](#): *Status of individual bills and related information*
- [General Assembly Members](#): *Member sponsored legislation*
- [Standing Committees](#): *Legislation referred to committee*
- [State Budget](#): *Budget bills, committees and summaries*
- [Daily Floor Calendars](#): *Legislative agendas*
- [Communications](#): *Legislation communicated between houses*
- [House Minutes](#) / [Senate Minutes](#): *Record of floor sessions*
- [Meetings](#): *House and Senate committee meeting schedule*
- [Statistics](#): *Session statistics*
- [Lobbyist-in-a-Box](#): *Subscription-based bill tracking service*
- [Cumulative Index](#): *Subject index of bills and resolutions*

You can also find the LIS on our LWV CVA website: lwv-cva.org. On the home page, click on “Explore the League” and then the “Voting and Elections” dropdown menu, “Legislative Information” which not only has links for Virginia but also for the US Congress.

From the League of Women Voters of Virginia -

One Remaining March LWV-VA Women's Legislative Roundtable (WLRT) - the League's weekly deep dives into our legislative priorities.

March 9 – Final Legislative Push

The 2022 Legislative Session runs Jan. 12- March 12. WLRTs are held each Wednesday 8:30 to 9:30 am, during the session. This year, you can attend in person – at the Tidewater Room of the SunTrust Center, 919 East Main Street, Richmond – or log in to view virtually!

Contact your local League president to join one of these meetings. Click [here](#) to register. When you RSVP you will have a choice to mark how you will attend. We hope to see you in whatever form is easiest for you but an in-person visit makes the biggest impact!

HELP WANTED – LWV CVA NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT!

By Sue Lewis, chair, LWV CVA Nominating Committee

At our Annual Meeting in May, we will do what we do at every Annual Meeting – elect leadership for the upcoming year, among other things.

Our Officers and Directors are elected for two-year terms, with staggered terms. This year we will be electing the President and the Secretary, along with two Directors. Our current President, Pat Cochran, who has served for two terms, is looking forward to a breather! So, we are looking for new leadership to step up and lead this great organization for the next two years.

Your nominating committee, myself as chair, Rice Wagner and Carol Cutler, is looking for your input (and volunteering) for these positions, as well as for two members of the next nominating committee. Please reach out to us if you want to suggest someone or let us know if you are interested in serving.

Our deadline for nominations is the end of March, so don't be bashful! Please contact Nominating Committee chair Sue Lewis, email: swlcville@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS to League member

Donna Paula Price

Scottsville District representative on the Albemarle Board of Supervisors, for being selected to participate in the

***UVA Sorenson Institute Program for Political Leaders
Class of 2022.***

The Sorensen Institute was established to restore public confidence in our political system. Every Sorensen program has three central themes: ethics in public service, the power of bipartisanship, and a concentrated study of public policy issues.

Welcome New Member:

Diane Skalak
1880 Browns Gap Turnpike
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-823-5022 (home)
914-584-3005 (cell)
Email: drskalak@gmail.com

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee resumes in-person meetings in April!

The IR/FedGov't Committee will meet on **Wednesday, April 20 at 9:30 am**
at the home of Marguerite Cox, 514 Rosemont Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Please respond to margecox@gmail.com. Meeting is open to all vaccinated members.

Coming April 10, 2022 - 2 pm to 4pm

LWV CVA Child Care Sunday Seminar – a Zoom Webinar

Each year, in different states, new policies are enacted that affect Early Childhood Care and Education. Last year, there was a big change in Virginia, as everything involving Early Childhood Care and Education was consolidated into the Department of Education. There are more changes on the horizon, with plans to expand Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and also to improve child care regulations. At the Federal level, President Biden is calling for free universal pre-K. However, there is also a call for child care pluralism, because American families vary greatly in their wants and needs for their children. As Virginia moves forward with policy plans, different stakeholders are working to make sure that policy changes will allow them to provide the kind of Early Childhood Care and Education they value.

This Sunday Seminar will feature two unique stakeholders of Early Childhood Care and Education – **Montessori Education** and **Cooperative Preschools**. These presenters are: Corey Borgman, Montessori Education and Outreach Director, UVA, will inform us about advocacy for Montessori education. Andrew Pennock, Associate Professor of Public Policy, UVA, will inform us about advocacy for Cooperative Preschools.

Registration for the Webinar will be announced in the upcoming LWV CVA April Newsletter.

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Report

By Muriel Grim

Over 50 people attended the Natural Resources Committee's February 15 virtual seminar, ***The Dark Side of the Sun? Renewable Sources of Electrical Power: Challenges and Promises***. There was lively discussion about the requirements for siting solar farms that are environmentally safe and also a lot of interest in using electric vehicles as a way to store and transfer electricity. You can view the YouTube recording of this meeting on the League's website, lwv-cva.org (use the drop-down menu "Explore the League" and click on Natural Resources Committee under "Advocacy.")

At the February 22 NRC meeting we decided on a statement that subsequently was presented to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors at their March 2 meeting by our League president, Pat Cochran. We suggested that, when the Growth Management section of the updated Comprehensive Plan is addressed, they consider the effects that land uses related to economic growth have on climate change. For information about the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee, contact Muriel Grim, email: msggrim2012@gmail.com. The next meeting is scheduled by zoom for Tuesday, March 22, 10 am.

Health Care Access and Equity – Local Program Update

By Stephanie Lowenhaupt

At our Annual 2021 Program Planning meeting on December 4, there was consensus to add a “Health Care Access and Equity” position to our programs. League members interested in the topic, Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Mimi Bender, Jane Eggelston, Kobby Hoffman and Bobbie Williams, volunteered as an initial group to begin discussions on what actions we could take as a League in 2022. We have begun to meet to discuss how best to proceed.

Based on the committee research and emails from the LWVUS, there was an option for our local League’s timely participation to concur with the New York State’s League position on *Health Care and Healthcare Finance*. It includes digital equity such as in the need for telemedicine services. The following links provide background on New York State’s and other state leagues' request for concurrence: Healthcare. <https://pwm.tempurl.host/hc-concurrence/>
Telemedicine services. <https://www.lwvnm.org/broadband/>

LWV Charlottesville Area Board met on February 16. After review and discussion, it was agreed to sign on as a League who is supportive of bringing the New York State Position for concurrence at the LWV US Convention. This was done on February 17--we were #53 out of 770 Leagues nationwide and the first League in Virginia to be added to the list of leagues concurring.

Over the next few months, our plan as a committee is to develop a LWV CVA “Health Care Access and Equity” position with action statements that apply to our local situation. These statements will be presented to our membership at the annual Program Planning meeting December 3, 2022. Our local position will reflect the LWVUS position in general, but our research will focus on local needs.

For more information on the position update, contact Stephanie Lowenhaupt, email: slowenhaupt@gmail.com.

LWV CVA Editing Meetings for Children’s Book on Voting

By Beth Alley [email: beth.alley@gmail.com]

Finally Covid is in retreat enough that hopefully we can resume our editing of our children’s book about the importance of voting. Gerry Kruger and I are eager to get a final draft but realize the importance of considering all the angles before putting this product out there for the public. So we are hoping you can join us and give us your input as we edit and consider wording for this educational outreach.

We will be meeting at Gerry Kruger’s house at 1:30 pm on March 28 and March 30. Please join us either one or both of these days. Gerry’s address is: 989 Allendale Drive, Charlottesville. We will be meeting after that with the consultant on **May 4 at 3 pm** to explore and implement the next steps in the process. If you can, please also save this date.

2022 LWV CVA Finance Drive Update

Contribution envelopes lost or buried on your desk?

Kerin Yates (email: kerinyates@hotmail.com) would be happy to provide another envelope. To date contributions to the Education Fund are down by 50% and to the Operating Fund, 70%. Because @ 74% of our dues goes to pay for our State and National Leagues, we depend on our fund drive to continue to bring programs and services to our community. If you have not yet considered a donation, please do. You can make your donation in one of two ways: by mail or online. **By mail** addressed to: LWV CVA 2022 Finance Drive PO Box 92 Free Union, VA 22940. **Online:** Go to our website's homepage: <https://www.lwv-cva.org>. Click on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the home page. You will then have the choice of giving to the Operating Fund (not tax-deductible) or to the Education Fund (tax-deductible). A modest processing fee is deducted from online contributions. We look forward to maintaining our presence in the community and living up to our mission as a "nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major policy issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy".

LWV CVA Finance Drive Report by Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Finance Drive Chair

On behalf of the Board, Thank You to all who have donated to the 2022 Annual LWV CVA Finance Drive. As of March 1, 2022 donations to the **Education Fund** totaled \$1100; contributions to the **Operating Fund** amounted to \$1872. We appreciate the continued support of members and friends in these challenging times.

Friends who have made contributions:

William J. Kehoe
Charles and Sharon McCurdy
Ellen Jackson
Kevin Lynch
Ann Snyder Harrod
Jeffrey Shabanowitz
Samuel Fisher
Patrick Tolan

We THANK YOU!

Members who have made contributions:

Miram Bender
Michele Kellermann
Shirley Payne
Kit Murphy McNally
Anita Pilling
Carol Cutler
Maureen O'Brien
Sharon Beeler
Kerin Yates
Sonia Haimes
Karen Davenport
Lulu Meese

David and Carol Hogg
Susan Bell Friedman
Megan Tracy
Betty Phelan
Evette Barton
Lois Sandy
Shelah Scott
Blair Bourque
Harriet Schley
Pat Cochran
Marge Cox

We THANK YOU!

2022 LWV-US National Convention: “Women Power Democracy” June 23 through June 26, Denver, Colorado

The biennial national gathering of *The League of Women Voters* will take place **June 23 through June 26, 2022, in Denver, Colorado**. Attendance at the Convention is an excellent way to learn about the League and participate as a “voting delegate” in its decision-making process or simply attend as an “observer.”

This year the Convention will be offered as “in-person” or “virtual”. Our League is entitled to **three voting delegates** (based on LWV CVA total membership of 137). We heartily urge long-time members and members new to our League to attend and represent our League! LWV CVA has a set amount of funds budgeted to support the registration fees as well as hotel and air flight.

If you are interested in this outstanding member event, please contact LWV CVA President Pat Cochran, email: patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com. She will be delighted to send you the registration information for attending in person or virtually. **Registration deadline is June 6.**

LWV-VA Council 2022 – June 4, 2022, 9 am - 3 pm

Among the planned program will be updates on all four Virginia program studies; environmental justice, childcare, education equity and campaign finance reform. Also there will be a report from the budget committee and the roll call of the Leagues.

Informative and educational breakouts are in the afternoon.

RSVP [here](#). Cost \$25 per delegate or observer—LWV CVA will reimburse for virtual participation of our members who attend Council.

**Meetings and Events for March/April/May/June 2022:
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday March 9 – 8:30 - 9:30 am	WLRT – Women's Legislative Roundtable	Hybrid: virtual and in person in Richmond	For complete information and registration, go to: https://lww-va.org
Wed., March 16, 3:00 – 5:00 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Tues., March 22, 10 am	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com
Mon. March 28 and Wed., March 30, both dates - 1:30 pm	LWV CVA "Children's Book Project Editing Meeting" - in-person meeting	Home of Gerry Kruger, 989 Allendale Dr. Charlottesville	For further information, contact Beth Alley, email: beth.alley@gmail.com
Sun., April 10, 2 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: Child Care	Zoom Webinar	Registration in next month's newsletter
Wed. April 20, 3 – 5 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Wed. May 4, 3 pm	LWV CVA "Children's Book Project Editing Meeting" - in-person meeting with consultant	Home of Gerry Kruger, 989 Allendale Dr. Charlottesville	For further information, contact Beth Alley, email: beth.alley@gmail.com
Thurs. May 12	LWV CVA Annual Meeting: Guest Speaker – David Toscano	Zoom Webinar	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Sat. June 4, 9 am – 3 pm	LWV-VA Council	Virtual Meeting	To register, see page 6 of this newsletter.
Thurs. June 23 – Sun June 26	LWV US National Convention	Hybrid meeting	See page 6 of this newsletter for information.



LWV CVA President
Pat Cochran

Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann